

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /073 W  
----- 043211

R 120945Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3160  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0489

EOO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR

SUBJECT: IMPRESSIONS OF MUHAYSHI

1. MUHAYSHI APPEARED LAST NIGHT ON TUNISIAN TELEVISION, WHICH CAN USUALLY BE RECEIVED IN TRIPOLI, GIVING LIBYANS THEIR FIRST LOOK AT HIM SINCE HE FLED LAST AUGUST. THE PROGRAM WAS FILMED IN CAIRO WITH A TUNISIAN INTERVIEWER, AND IT WAS A CHANCE TO APPRAISE THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN GIVING QADHAFI FITS WITH TUNISIAN AND EGYPTIAN BACKING.

2. MUHAYSHI HAS GREENED A GOOD DEAL SINCE EARLY 1975, WHEN HE WAS GIVING MORE REVOLUTIONARY THAN THOU SPEECHES TO LIBYAN CROWDS. HIS HAIR IS NOW FASHIONABLY LONG, AND HE WORE TINTED SUNGLASSES, HARDLY THE IMAGE OF A YOUNG ARAB ARMY OFFICER WITH POLITICAL AMBITIONS. NOR DID HIS MESSAGE MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION. HE HINTED THAT HE HAD BEEN THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE REVOLUTION, AND CLAIMED HE HAD ENGINEERED QADHAFI'S PROMOTION TO COLONEL. WHEN THE TUNISIAN INTERVIEWER, FROM HEIGHTS OF CULTURAL SUPERIORITY, SUGGESTED THAT QADHAFI WAS A BAD SPEAKER OF ARABIC, MUHAYSHI WENT HIM ONE BETTER: IN FACT, QADHAFI WAS ILLITERATE, HE SAID.

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3. MUHAYSHI'S RATHER SERVILE ATTITUDE TO HIS HOSTS

MUST RAISE MANY LIBYAN HACKLES TOO. ASKED FOR HIS  
IMPRESSIONS OF TUNISIA, MUHAYSHI VOLUNTEERED THAT  
TUNISIA WAS FIFTY YEARS AHEAD OF LIBYA IN DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE THIS MAYBE TRUE, IT IS NOT A POLITIC THING TO  
SAY TO WITH A LIBYAN AUDIENCE IN MIND.

4. IN GENERAL, WHILE MUCH THAT MUHAYSHI HAS BEEN SAYING  
IS ACCURATE, HE IS NOT IN QADHAFI'S LEAGUE WHEN IT COMES  
TO POPULAR APPEAL. RIVAL FOR QADHAFI'S LEADERSHIP  
WILL HAVE TO COME FROM ANOTHER QUARTER, OR SO IT SEEMS  
TO US.  
CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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